

Message Text

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16

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF USS WAINWRIGHT TO ROMANIA

1. FOLLOWING IS RECOMMENDED TEXT OF USINFO FOR BROADCAST ON VOA FRIDAY, JUNE 20. POST HAS ASSURED GOR THAT VOA WILL NOT BEGIN COVERAGE OF USS WAINWRIGHT VISIT UNTIL ROMANIANS HAVE ISSUED THEIR OWN PRESS RELEASE SOMETIME FRIDAY. WILL ADVISE AS SOON AS PRESS RELEASE IS MADE PUBLIC. BEGIN TEXT: THE USS WAINWRIGHT, A SHIP BELONGING TO THE U.S. NAVY'S SIXTH FLEET, BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN NAVAL VESSEL TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROMANIA SINCE WORLD WAR II WHEN IT DOCKED IN CONSTANTA HARBOR EARLIER TODAY. THE AMERICAN SHIP'S HISTORIC VISIT OFFICIALLY BEGAN AT 0800 THIS MORNING WITH A CEREMONIAL EXCHANGE OF GUN SALUTES AS IT STEAMED IN FROM THE BLACK SEA. THE SHIP WAS THEN ESCORTED TO CONSTANTA'S DEEP-WATER HARBOR, WHERE IT WILL REMAIN UNTIL JUNE 24. THE WAINWRIGHT'S VISIT TO CONSTANTA IS ANOTHER ELEMENT IN THE OVERALL U.S.-ROMANIAN EFFORT TO PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONS AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND POSSIBLY WILL BE FOLLOWED LATER BY A VISIT TO AN AMERICAN PORT BY A ROMANIAN NAVAL VESSEL.

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THE ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AS OFFICIAL

HOST FOR THE FOUR-DAY VISIT, HAS PLANNED A FULL RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ROMANIAN CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS AND THE WAINWRIGHT'S ENTIRE CREW. UPON ARRIVAL AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HARRY G. BARNES, JR. AND CAPTAIN EUGENE ACKERMAN, THE WAINWRIGHT'S COMMANDING OFFICER, EMBARKED ON A SERIES OF JOINT CALLS ON LOCAL ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE COMMANDER OF THE ROMANIAN NAVY AND THE MAYOR OF CONSTANTA. CAPTAIN ACKERMAN PARTICIPATED IN A WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT THE VICTORY MONUMENT IN CONSTANTA EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON, AND LATER GAVE GUIDED TOURS OF HIS SHIP, ONE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S MOST MODERN, FOR ROMANIAN DIGNITARIES.

THE WAINWRIGHT'S CREW WILL SAMPLE ROMANIAN HOSPITALITY AND ATHLETIC PROWESS DURING THE SHIP'S STOPOVER. TOURS OF THE CONSTANTA-MAMAIA-MANGALIA RESORT COMPLEX AND OF LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE CREW. IN ADDITION, SPORTS COMPETITION BETWEEN CREW MEMBERS AND ROMANIAN CIVIC AND MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS IN BASKETBALL,

VOLLEYBALL AND TENNIS WILL BE HELD AS PART OF THE OFFICIAL FESTIVITIES.

THE WAINWRIGHT'S VISIT TO ROMANIA COMES IN THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF VE DAY. IT IS THE SECOND MILITARY EXCHANGE IN RECENT MONTHS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ROMANIA. EARLIER THIS YEAR, GENERAL-COLONEL ION COMAN, ROMANIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, VISITED MILITARY BASES AND RESEARCH FACILITIES IN THE U.S. AT THE INVITATION OF GENERAL FRED C. WEYAND, U.S. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. END TEXT.

2. POST WILL ATTEMPT TO FILE OTHER USINFOS ON THE WAINWRIGHT VISIT OVER THE WEEKEND. SHOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DO SO, POST WOULD APPRECIATE VOA DRAWING REPORTS FOR BROADCASTS OVER WEEKEND FROM OFFICIAL SCHEDULE FOR WAINWRIGHT VISIT INCLUDED IN BUCHAREST 2644, WHICH WAS REPEATED AS BUCHAREST 2675 TO THE AGENCY FOR REFERENCE.

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